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Date: June 20, 2006

Rose Reiter  
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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gernon et al.

Group Art Unit: 1751

Serial No.: 10/723,921

Examiner: G.E. Webb

Filed: 11/26/2003

Confirmation Number: 9780

For: AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS CONTAINING DITHIONIC ACID AND/OR  
METAL DITHIONATE FOR METAL FINISHING

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following response is made to the Office Action mailed March 23, 2006 setting a shortened statutory period for response to expire on June 23, 2006. Applicants request entry of the following amendments, consideration of the following remarks and reconsideration of the rejections set forth in said Office Action.

A listing of the amended claims begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5.